OBN NEWS

March 1991

OBN News, 519 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2C9 Tel: (416)-649-1356 / Fax: (416)-649-1314

The Ontario Bisexual Network (OBN) is a group formed to enable contacts among bisexual people in Ontario, and to help them undertake activities of interest. At present, these activities include: a mailing list, a newsletter, support group meetings, social activities, a political action group, education of others, information sharing, and safe sexuality information. The network's only mandate is to bring people together. — OBN Meeting, August 2, 1990.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Saturday, March 9, 1991

Everyone is welcome to come to downtown Toronto on Saturday, March 9, 1991 to celebrate International Women's Day and to hear what women have to say about many pressing issues facing the world today.

Catherine Crockett, our OBN representative on the International Women's Day Coalition, reports that the themes for this year's International Women's Day, in addition to the headline below, include:

- **SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLES, PALESTINIANS, AND BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA**
- **RACISM KILLS: CONFRONT IT! OPPOSE IT!**
- **END THE VIOLENCE — WE DEMAND SOCIAL JUSTICE!**

Saturday March 9th will be a full day. Among the activities scheduled for the event are:

IWD RALLY

An International Women's Day Rally will be held at 10:30 am at Convocation Hall, University of Toronto. The rally will be wheelchair accessible and interpreted for the hearing impaired.

A MARCH

A Women's Day march will be held at 12 noon, starting at Convocation Hall at the University of Toronto, and ending at Jorgensen Hall at Ryerson.

A FAIR

A Women's Day Fair will be held at Ryerson, Jorgensen Hall between 2 and 5 pm. Childcare is available. For exhibit tables call Lori at 929-0547.

A DANCE

The Women's Day DANCE is being held at Concert Hall, 9 pm on Saturday evening. Childcare funds are available (call OCAC, 969-8463).

OBN Meeting Times

OBN Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, from 6 to 8 p.m., and on the third Thursday of every month from 8 to 10 p.m., at the 519 Community Center (519 Church Street, just north of Wellesley). To add your name to our mailing list write to OBN at the address above.

Who to Contact

The following is a list of OBN members who have volunteered their time to talk with you about questions you may have, or if you just need someone for emotional support:

Bill Jeffery 922-4262
Bruce Small 649-1356
Carol Broderick 766-7011
Catherine Crockett 537-5832
Les Green 968-6955
Rob Cusson 362-9892
Scott Lucas 633-5666

WOMEN SAY STOP THE RACIST WAR FROM OKA TO THE GULF!

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CANADIAN GAY ARCHIVES

Volunteers Needed for March 9th

Volunteers are needed to assist in the International Women's Day Fair on Saturday March 9th!

Simple and satisfying labour jobs are available anytime after 7:30 a.m. Assistance is required for setup, during the fair from about 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and for takedown after. No prior experience required. On-the-job training supplied. Both women and men are welcome to help. Just show up at the volunteer table at the north end of Jorgensen Hall at Ryerson anytime during the day.

Volunteers are also required to staff the OBN information table for Women's Day.

Bi-Questionnaire!

This is a final reminder to finish filling out Ron Fox's questionnaire for a research study on bisexuality. If you haven't received a copy yet, come to an OBN meeting or call the OBN number on the front page of this newsletter.

New Revenues for OBN

To keep the treasury viable, we have begun a "pass-the-hat" policy for all regular OBN meetings. Members will be expected to toss in $2 each to cover miscellaneous expenses including the cost of newsletters supplied at meetings.

If you're having trouble with cash, pick a contribution in the $0-2 range and catch up later when you're flush. Your being there is still the most important thing.

NDP Government Begins War on Sexism in Advertising

The Toronto Star reported March 6th that the Ontario NDP Government has declared war on sexism in advertising — beginning with booze ads.

Consumer Minister Peter Kormos announced to reporters: "We're going to eliminate advertising that is sexist and inappropriate in the 1990s, at least in Ontario. I hope we can set rules that will ensure that sexism in wine, spirits and beer advertising is eliminated."

Women's Issues Minister Anne Swarbick said alcohol advertising is just a start. The government, she said, eventually plans to root out sexism in all advertising within its jurisdiction.

"Increasingly, over time, we will look at how we ... make sure that the image being projected of women in our society is not exploitive and is on a very equal basis with how men are projected," she said.

Jan Westcott, executive director of the Brewers of Ontario, was quoted as saying "I'm not prepared to say that what's going on today is wrong or bad."

Articles Needed for Newsletter

Contributions to the newsletter are required by the mid-month meeting, and can be submitted either at the meeting or to the OBN mail slot at main desk of the 519 Community Centre on Church St. north of Wellesley.

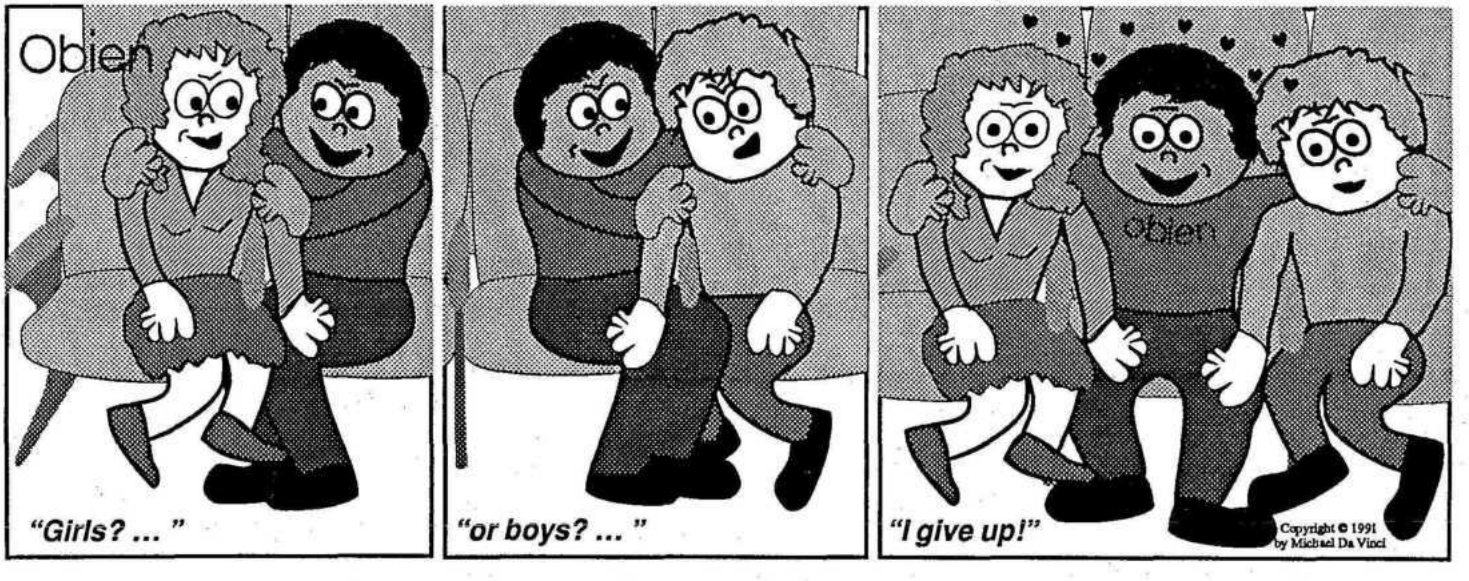
Late submissions will be considered if you alert Bruce by phone at 649-1356 and send the material three days before the first-of-the-month meeting by fax to 649-1314.

If you do not wish to be identified, feel free to write under a pen-name.

CTV Shirley Show Tackles Bisexuality

The February 18th show for CTV's Shirley Show featured "Bisexuality — Coping With the Truth and Dealing With the Prejudice". A number of OBN members were in the audience to see how the subject was handled.

One of the principal guests on the progam was Robyn Ochs from the Boston Bisexual Women's Network. Robyn is a pioneer in the bisexual movement in the United States, and her clear thinking during the interview helped to clarify that bisexuality can be a positive and viable choice. Our thanks go to Robyn for her time, expertise and courage in this public interview.

Another guest and an invited psychologist emphasized the "torment" that can accompany bisexuality in a society that prejudices against same-gender relations. A married couple discussed how an open marriage with one partner being bisexual can work.

Audience reaction to the show varied. OBN has a copy of the tape and will be airing it for further discussion at the March 7th meeting. Those who miss the meeting are welcome to contact Bruce to arrange to borrow the tape.